

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** November 2, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on October 26, 2007

**FROM:** Richard C. Karl, Director  
Superfund Division

**TO:** Mary A. Gade  
Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur  
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Emergency Response, Reilly Plating, Melvindale, Michigan**

On October 16, 2007, approximately 500 gallons of hydrochloric acid leaked from a rooftop tank into secondary containment at the Reilly Plating facility in Melvindale, Michigan. A precautionary evacuation was ordered by the City of Melvindale Fire Chief, and the evacuation area included three schools and a senior citizen residential high rise building. On-Scene Coordinators James Justice and Brian Schlieger responded to a request for air monitoring assistance from the Downriver Emergency Hazmat Team and Melvindale Fire Department. To initiate air monitoring and physical contaminant removal, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) mobilized the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START). The Fire Chief lifted the evacuation late that evening after response contractors hired by Reilly Plating had mitigated the release.

On October 19, 2007, a multimedia inspection was conducted at the facility by U.S. EPA Land & Chemical Division, Air & Radiation Division, and Risk Management Planning inspectors. Representatives from both the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ's) Air and Waste and Hazardous Materials Division participated in the multimedia inspection. The inspection encompassed both the Reilly Plating facility and

the adjoining M-Lock property. Findings from the inspections are being compiled.

Contacts: Brian Schlieger (734-692-7681)  
James Justice (734-692-7687)  
Monika Chrzaszcz (312-886-0181)

**Emergency Response, Elbert Street Mercury Spill, Urbana, Ohio**

On October 18, 2007, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator Jon Gulch responded to a request for assistance from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) to conduct mercury vapor monitoring and removal actions at a residential mercury spill located in Urbana, Champaign County, Ohio. The mercury was spilled throughout the home, front porch and front yard by a 15-year old boy that lives at the residence. To initiate air monitoring and physical contaminant removal, U.S. EPA mobilized the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) and the Emergency and Rapid Response Service (ERRS) contractors. Because of a potential for spreading the contamination, START screened several residential properties, clothing, and vehicles of individuals identified as having come in contact with the elemental mercury. On October 24, 2007, START screened the residence and no mercury vapor levels above recommended health guidelines were detected. This information was given to the Champaign County Health Department, which in turn lifted the condemned status of the residence and the home owner immediately moved back into the house.

Contact: Jon Gulch (734-692-7686)

**Removal Action Initiated, Grand Traverse Overall Supply Co. Superfund Site, Greilickville, Michigan**

On October 17, 2007, a removal action was initiated at the Grand Traverse Overall Supply Co. (GTOS) Superfund site in Greilickville, Michigan. The GTOS site previously housed dry cleaning operations, and numerous studies have documented the presence of elevated levels of chlorinated volatile organic compounds, such as tetrachloroethene (PCE) and trichloroethylene (TCE) in groundwater, soils, and soil vapors onsite. In addition, numerous studies have indicated that this contamination is migrating off-site and potentially impacting other properties and Grand Traverse Bay. The removal action will involve the demolition of the site building in order to excavate the contaminated soils beneath the structure. Additional actions may

address the treatment of contaminated soils at greater depths. U.S. EPA's Remedial Program is also working on appropriate actions to address contaminated groundwater at the site, and will implement these plans following the completion of the removal actions.

Contact: Michelle Jaster (734-692-7683)

**Settlement, Land O'Lakes, Inc., Kiel, Wisconsin**

On October 12, 2007, U.S. EPA entered into a Consent Agreement and Final Order with Land O'Lakes Inc., to resolve alleged violations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) release reporting requirements. U.S. EPA alleged that Land O'Lakes Inc., failed to immediately notify the National Response Center, and Wisconsin State Emergency Response Commission (SERC), and Calumet County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) of a release of 181 pounds of chlorine which occurred at their facility on October 8, 2004. Chlorine is a CERCLA hazardous substance and an EPCRA extremely hazardous substance with a 10 pound reportable quantity. In addition, Land O'Lakes Inc., failed to submit written follow up reports to the SERC and LEPC as soon as practicable after the release. The release occurred when a transfer hose was hooked up to the wrong tank causing a chemical reaction. Land O'Lakes Inc., provided additional information during negotiations demonstrating a high probability that the release did not migrate beyond the facility's boundaries. The proposed penalty was adjusted to \$28,438. After applying the Enforcement Response Policy, Land O'Lakes will pay \$4,000 to the Superfund, pay \$500 to the U.S. Treasury, and conduct a Supplemental Environmental Project to address future releases for a cost of \$16,928. The total settlement is for \$21,428.

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

**Settlement, Mead Johnson & Company, Evansville, Indiana**

On October 19, 2007, U.S. EPA entered into a Consent Agreement and Final Order with Mead Johnson & Company, to resolve alleged violations of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) release reporting requirements. U. S. EPA alleged that Mead Johnson & Company, failed to immediately notify the National Response Center of a release of 20 pounds of chlorine which occurred from their

facility on August 25, 2005. Chlorine is a CERCLA hazardous substance with a 10 pound reportable quantity. This release was due to corrosion of a 150 pound chlorine cylinder, which could have been prevented with better equipment inspections. Mead Johnson & Company will pay a \$5,239 penalty.

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

### **Meeting, Reilly Plating, Melvindale, Michigan**

On October 24, 2007, a town hall meeting was held at the Melvindale Civic Center at the request of Michigan State Senator Raymond Basham and Melvindale Mayor Andrew Luzod. The meeting was held to address public concerns regarding the Reilly Plating Emergency Response Actions. The meeting was attended by On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) James Justice and Brian Schlieger and by Mark Johnson of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The public had the opportunity to ask questions to a panel that included representatives from U.S. EPA, ATSDR, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), and officials from the City of Melvindale. A majority of the questions were answered by MDEQ and were related to longer-term regulatory oversight of the facility. U.S. EPA presented air monitoring results that were collected during the response action. Approximately 80 citizens were present at the meeting.

Contacts: Brian Schlieger (734-692-7681)  
James Justice (734-692-7687)

## **TRAINING/CONFERENCES**

### **Regional Environmental Emergencies Team Meeting, Thunder Bay, Canada**

On October 23, 2007, On-Scene Coordinator Fred Micke attended the Regional Environmental Emergencies Team (REET) meeting in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. The U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. EPA, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and Cook County (Minnesota) represented the United States. The Canadian government was represented by the Ministry of the Environment, Environment Canada, the Canadian Coast Guard, and local officials. Approximately 30 people attended. A tabletop exercise was conducted as part of the meeting.

Contact: Fred Micke (312-886-5123)

## STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

### Letter of Appreciation (Brian Schieger), Downriver Haz-Mat Team, Reilly Plating Release, Trenton Fire Department, Trenton, Michigan

On October 18, 2007, Response Section 1 received an e-mail letter of thanks from Captain Jeffrey Bonkoski of the Trenton Fire Department, Trenton, Michigan. Captain Bonkoski is also a Haz-Mat Coordinator for Detroit's "Downriver" area. The letter thanked On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) Brian Schieger and James Justice for their assistance in the Reilly Plating hydrochloric acid release incident that occurred on October 16, 2007. In the letter, Captain Bonkoski stated: "I would like to thank you for the support and help at this incident. I believe that everything the first responders did went extremely well and all reports I've received show that we did things right in addressing all the concerns. ... As always it was great to have you on scene to help answer questions as they arose. I look forward to working with you all in the future." This letter of appreciation, in addition to the work at Reilly Plating, is a testament to the ongoing coordination between U.S. EPA's Grosse Ile response office and the local Hazardous Materials teams. Specifically, OSCs James Justice and Michelle Jaster coordinate many of the training activities between our teams which all the OSCs participate in.

Contact: Mark Durno (440-250-1743)

### Letter of Appreciation (James Justice & Michelle Jaster), Rouge River Water Festival Participation, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) James Justice and Michelle Jaster received thank you letters from Michael Stafford, Director of the Cranbrook Institute of Science and John P. McCulloch, Oakland County Drain Commissioner. The letters thanked the OSCs for their participation in the 5<sup>th</sup> annual River Rouge Water Festival, and read in part: "We are writing to thank you for your volunteer participation at the 2007 Rouge River Water Festival at the Cranbrook Institute of Science. Over 1200 fifth grade students from twenty-five elementary schools throughout the Rouge River Watershed participated in this event. Your contribution helped ensure the success of this annual event." Various OSCs

from the Grosse Ile office present an overview of oil spill responses at this event annually.

Contact: Mark Durno (440-250-1743)

cc: Susan Bodine (OSWER)  
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Barry Breen (OSWER)  
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